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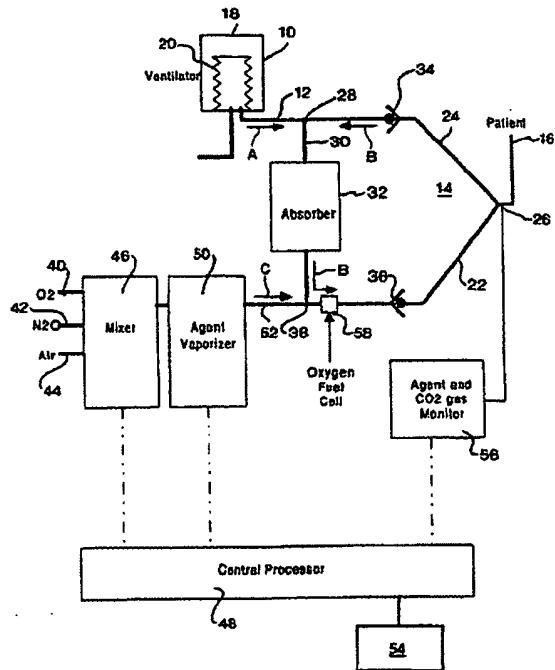
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(54) Automatic air wash for anesthesia system

(57) An anesthesia system is disclosed that prolongs the lifetime of an oxygen fuel cell (58) by using that signal (60) to detect the concentration of oxygen in that anesthesia system. The system determines and provides a signal (60) indicating the end of any particular operation using the anesthesia system and that signal (60) is used to cut off all gas supplies (40,42) with the exception of the fresh air supply (44) which is then allowed to pass through the system to wash the various lines (22,24,30,52), including the conduit having the oxygen gas fuel cell (58) thus preventing the typically high concentrations of oxygen used in an operation from remaining in the oxygen fuel cell (58) for an unnecessary period of time. Furthermore, the gases in the anesthesia machine are eliminated along with their deleterious effects and replaced by fresh air from the normal supply of fresh air (44) to the system.





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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 97 30 5367

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.6)
A	US 4 883 051 A (WESTENSKOW DWAYNE R ET AL) 28 November 1989 * abstract; figures * * column 4, line 22 - column 7, line 19 *	1,8	A61M16/00 G01N27/407
A	EP 0 684 049 A (SIEMENS ELEMA AB) 29 November 1995 * abstract; figures * * column 5, line 36 - line 56 *	1,8	
A	US 4 359 057 A (MANZELLA GIOVANNI) 16 November 1982 * abstract; figures * * column 2, line 24 - line 60 *	1,8	
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner	
THE HAGUE	22 June 1998	Zeinstra, H	
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	
X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document			